

From the Editor

THIS month's issue of *Soldiers* showcases the training behind some of our Army's more unusual capabilities.

In "Sea-Tested Soldiers," SFC Brenda Benner goes aboard the USS *Tarawa* for a look at arming and operating Texas National Guard AH-64 Apaches as part of the Joint Shipboard Integration Process.

Back on shore, MSG Vern Borth shows us what it takes to teach soldiers to operate locomotives and repair the rails they ride on in "Army Green, Silver Rails."

So you just learned to speak Arabic at the Defense Language Institute — but can you do it when your life depends on it? In "Linguists on the Line," SPC Mitch Fraizer takes a look at training soldiers to translate under pressure.

To see how soldiers are helping design the Army's next howitzer, don't miss "Crafting Crusader" by CPT Amy Hannah.

And to help you keep track of coming military athletic competitions, we've included a special 2002 MWR Sports Calendar.

All of us at *Soldiers* wish you the happiest of holidays.

John C. Suttle

Be Proud

THIS is an open letter to all who currently wear the uniform of, and serve, our great nation.

Be very, very proud of what you do and know that those of us who have served before you support you in whatever you are asked to do in the weeks and months that follow the cowardly attack on Sept. 11. Those of us who have worn the "Big Red One," the "Screaming Eagle" or any of the Army's great unit insignias on our sleeves would gladly do so once again to make sure that our flag continues to fly high and free!

Paul Bowers
via e-mail

Not an M-60

YOUR October article "Becoming an All American" has a photo caption on page 44 that says PFC McEnerney is changing the barrel of an M-60 machine gun. What PFC McEnerney is changing the barrel on is actually an M-240B machine gun, not an M-60.

SFC Richard Gano
via e-mail

Great Style Guide

I AM a former British special-forces soldier and the chairman of a campaign group that publishes its own magazine. I visited www.soldiersmagazine.com and was impressed by your Style Guide for contributors — it is a simple, clever way of regulating the quality of contributors' offerings without giving offence or discouraging input. We will have to steal the idea, as well as all your contributor tips!

Incidentally, on a point of accuracy, you do not have, as your homepage suggests, an "audience" of over a million. You

Flag Etiquette

I WAS surprised when I saw the front cover of the October issue, because the U.S. flag hanging from the Pentagon is backward. I have no doubt that the intentions of everyone involved in hanging that flag were nothing less than honorable, but the flag is backward nevertheless. Even worse, the military personnel on top of the building are saluting the flag.

SPC Sean Arnold
via e-mail

GIVEN that the flag was put up as a spontaneous gesture of national unity in the immediate aftermath of a horrendous terrorist attack, we'd think the rules of flag etiquette might understandably be overlooked. As it turns out, however, the flag isn't backward. Section 3, paragraph (i), of the Federal Flag Code (Public Law 94-344) — which prescribes the proper display of and respect for the U.S. flag — states: "When displayed either horizontally or vertically against a wall, the union should be uppermost and to the flag's own right, that is, to the observer's left."



have a "readership" of over a million.

Best wishes to all your readers in the challenging times that lie ahead,

George McAulay
via e-mail

Thanks for the kind words — we always appreciate letters that have nothing to do with our shaky equipment-identification skills. As hesitant as we are to disagree with a fellow journalist, we should point out that Webster's Dictionary (our standard argument-solver when it comes to word choice) defines "audience" as "a reading, viewing or listening public." We think that better defines the more than 1 million people who read the magazine or visit the website each month than does the more limiting "readership."

Uniform Questions

I HAVE some questions regarding the dress green uniform, cannot find the answers in AR 670-1 and hope you can help.

Has the headgear for this uniform changed since the issue of the black berets? Are nameplates, ribbons and rank applied to the commercial white shirt in the same manner as the AG 415 shirt, or is it worn as is?

SPC Nate Drown
via e-mail

WE'RE confused about the wear of the black beret with class A and B uniforms. One of your articles on the beret said that "Air assault-coded units may blouse their trousers with boots." The word "coded" confused us. We're members of an air-assault infantry battalion in

the Pennsylvania Army National Guard. Are we authorized to blouse our trousers with boots?

Name withheld by request
via e-mail

MSG K. L. Messman, HQDA Uniform Policy proponent, replies to both readers:

"As an exception to the normal policy that prohibits wear of the beret with a dress uniform, soldiers who wear the dress green uniform with the white shirt may wear the black beret. This exception is allowed due to the elimination of the garrison cap and the green service cap. The white shirt is worn only as part of the dress or mess uniform. It is not part of the class B uniform; therefore, soldiers may not wear any insignia or awards on the white shirt.

"If the unit is designated 'air assault' on the MTOE/TDA, or if a soldier's duty position is

designated 'air assault' on the MTOE/TDA, he/she may blouse the boots when wearing slacks/trousers."

Medal Madness

I WOULD like to start off by saying you all do an outstanding job. The magazine always has interesting content.

My question is this: What can you tell me about two proposed medals, the Korean Defense Medal and the Cold War Medal? I know that they were introduced to Congress for approval, but that was the last I have heard about them.

Adam Martin
via e-mail

NO medal has been authorized or issued for Cold War recognition. However, in the 1998 National Defense Authorization Act the secretary of defense approved awarding Cold War

Recognition Certificates to all members of the armed forces and qualified federal civilian personnel who faithfully and honorably served the United States anytime during the Cold War era, Sept. 2, 1945, through Dec. 26, 1991. The Army

website <http://coldwar.army.mil> is the only site on which to request the certificates, which are available free to qualified individuals. Sites selling the certificates or replicas are not official, and are not approved or endorsed by the Army.

Soldiers is for soldiers and DA civilians. We invite readers' views. Stay under 150 words — a post card will do — and include your name, rank and address. We'll withhold your name if you desire and may condense your views because of space. We can't publish or answer every one, but we'll use representative views. Write to: **Feedback, Soldiers, 9325 Gunston Road, Ste. S108, Fort Belvoir, VA 22060-5581**, or e-mail: soldiers@belvoir.army.mil.



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